

Titus 2:11-14 Because He Wants Us

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

In this wonderful passage from Paul's pen we see salvation described in a threefold way. Each one is significant and precious. Let's take the passage apart and mine out these truths for our needy souls today.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation..."

Paul introduces this paragraph by declaring that it is the grace of God that brings salvation. It is God's grace, not our works that is the origination, motivation, initiation, and completion of our salvation from sin. How wonderful that God's grace *brings* salvation! His grace does not merely point to salvation - for we could never reach it if that is all it did. His grace does not simply describe salvation; for we could never comprehend it if that is all it did. No, this grace of God actually "brings salvation" so that we might have it! And what is this "grace of God that brings salvation"? It is Jesus Christ. He is the grace of God incarnate that brings salvation to each of us.

The phrase, "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared" describes the first coming of Christ. It is compared with the next appearing in verse 13 described as "the glorious appearing." His first coming was not glorious, it was humble. His first appearing was destined for rejection and death for us. It was this first appearing that brought salvation. The next appearing, the glorious appearing, will be seen by every eye, and will bring judgment to this world.

"has appeared to all men..."

This saving grace has been manifested to all men by the universal proclamation of the gospel to Jew and Gentile alike.

"It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ..."

And this grace not only brings salvation from sin, but instruction in righteousness and transformation of character. Grace saves, grace teaches, grace transforms. Grace teaches us to say "No!" to sin and "Yes!" to righteousness as we live now waiting for the glorious appearing of Christ soon to come.

“Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.”

Paul now returns to Christ's first coming with the words “Who gave himself for us...”. This is the cross. This is the grace of God that brings salvation...giving Himself for us. And now Paul explains this salvation that Christ has brought to us in three figures: Redemption, Purification, Adoption.

Redemption: He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness

Redemption is the paying of the price and setting the slave free. We first see the concept of redemption in Exodus, as the death of the Passover Lamb sets Israel free from bondage to Egypt. Christ giving away His life on the cross for us sets us free from the bondage of sin. We are no longer bound to sin's penalty, power or control. Notice that this freedom is *“from all wickedness.”* Not just some, or most, but all! If it were not from all, it would not matter at all. But we are redeemed from all wickedness so that we can walk in newness of life. “For freedom Christ has set you free!” (Galatians 5:1)

Purification: “Who gave Himself for us ... to purify us...”

Christ's finished work on the cross not only frees us from the chains of sin, but washes us from the stains of sin. When God looks at us in Christ, washed in the blood of Christ, robed in the righteousness of Christ, He sees no fault in us. Such is the salvation that God's grace brings to us. No chain! No stain! No fear!

Adoption: “Who gave Himself for us... to purify for Himself a people that are His very own...”

Now the glorious consummation of this threefold salvation: Adoption! Christ not only set us free from the chains of sin, and washed us from the stains of sin, but He did this because He wanted us to belong to Him, and be with Him, and to be like him in sinless glory forever. “A people that are His very own...” He did not merely set us free and wash us clean, and then say, “Now go away, I never want to see you again!” No! He set us free and washed us clean because He wanted us to be His very own sons and daughters. I met a young woman some time ago who, in the course of our conversation, shared that she was adopted as an infant. I asked her if she ever struggled with this as she got into her teen years she said “No. My mom and dad told me, for as long as I could remember, that “while other people have children by surprise, we took you on purpose because we loved you and wanted you. You are even more special to us.” I couldn't help thinking of this passage... “To make us a people of His very own!” We were chosen before time, saved by His grace, redeemed by His death, purified by His blood, and adopted by His choice. What more could be said to thrill our souls or establish our confidence in God's saving purpose for you and me?

Rest in His love.

Rejoice in His grace.

Worship in His presence.

Proclaim the news.

“The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared!”

Self Check

1. Am I resting in His grace?
2. Am I rejoicing in His eternal love?
3. Am I saying “No” to sin and “Yes” to righteousness moment by moment?

For Further Study

Trace the following words through scripture ... redemption, redeem, redeemed; purified, washed, cleansed; chosen, adopted, His own.

“Lord, You are full of grace. And your grace is not passive. Your grace brings salvation. Your grace teaches us. Your grace frees us. Your grace washes us. Your grace makes us Your own. If You were not gracious, no one could be saved. I see Your grace most clearly at the cross. I experience Your grace every moment of every day. I bless You for Your amazing grace that saved a wretch like me. I am so grateful for Your sacrifice that sets me free, washes me clean and makes me Yours. Teach me by this same grace to fight against sin in my life and to follow Your will in every decision, while I wait for Your glorious return. Even so come, Lord Jesus. In Your name I pray, AMEN.”

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4

Ron& Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY